

nurses tending to troops from the Pacific Theater, becoming one of the first female nurses to ever administer anesthesia to a wounded soldier. In total, Irene served more than two years overseas and earned the rank of First Lieutenant before separating from the service in 1946.

But it was back at Camp McCoy that Irene's life changed forever, when she met a young G.I. named Louis W. A. Hosking from Michigan. They married, and at the war's end made their home in Owosso, where together they would raise one son, one grandson, and two great grandchildren. For many years, Irene served as superintendent of nurses at the Shiawassee County Hospital on Lyons Road, which later moved to Norton Street and was known as the Pleasant View facility.

When Hosking came home and tried to join the VFW in 1946, she was told that women were not allowed. It took nearly four decades, but she persisted and finally became a member in 1984. But Irene was born to lead, and in 1995, the woman who was once forbidden to join became the first female commander at the Shiawassee County Council VFW Post No. 4005. She served as chaplain of the organization until 2022, when it should be noted she was 104 years old.

Irene Hosking represents the best of this Nation: selfless service, fearlessness in the face of obstacles, and a relentless dedication to her calling. With gratitude to the U.S. Army, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, and to all who have shared Irene's story over her long and fruitful life, today I join in tribute and reflect the appreciation and admiration of a grateful Nation.

RECOGNIZING AUTISM AFTER 21 DAY

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight national "Autism After 21 Day"—April 21st—as an important milestone during Autism Acceptance Month. As we use this month to recognize the many wonderful contributions of people with autism, it is also fitting for us to take a few moments to acknowledge the challenges that many people with autism face as they transition into adulthood.

Each year in the United States, more than 70,000 children with autism become adults with autism. The transition to adulthood is difficult for many individuals, but it can be especially challenging for autistic young people, who too often face a formidable "services cliff" as they age out of the school system. Support services may drop off, and young adults with autism sometimes struggle to continue their education or find meaningful employment. Some young people in this situation experience a crushing loss of their community and can feel very isolated.

In light of these major challenges, I want to recognize the extraordinary work of my constituents, JaLynn Prince and Dr. Gregory A. Prince, who founded the Madison House Autism Foundation. This remarkable organization is improving the health and wellbeing of autistic adults throughout their lifespans through employment partnerships, housing initiatives,

and many other exceptional offerings. The Madison House Autism Foundation is also driving forward the Autism After 21 movement—a growing social movement that champions the expansion of attention, care and support to maximize the wellbeing of people with autism throughout their lifespan.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue working to build a more inclusive and enlightened society that provides opportunities to autistic individuals of every age. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing April 21st as national "Autism After 21 Day".

RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF 2ND CHANCE, INC.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 2nd Chance, Inc. on their 35th anniversary. Since its inception in 1988 as a non-profit organization, 2nd Chance, Inc.'s purpose has been to provide supportive advocacy services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

The board of directors and staff of 2nd Chance, Inc. provide services to these victims from shelters to support to counseling until protection and assistance is no longer required.

2nd Chance opened its first emergency shelter—the Joy Kathryn Courtney House—in 1990 where up to 23 victims with or without children could be housed. The second shelter—the Legacy House—was opened in 2017 to house older victims and those with limited mobility issues.

These places of refuge and the services provided by 2nd Chance have assisted countless numbers of women and families across Calhoun County and the surrounding area over the past 35 years. Many more individuals have been made aware of the prevalence of domestic and sexual violence and how to assist victims thanks to the services offered by 2nd Chance.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the hard work of 2nd Chance, Inc., their 35th anniversary and their lasting impact on our community.

RECOGNIZING THE AIR FORCE RESERVE'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very significant date in the history of the national defense of our great Nation. On April 14th, the Air Force Reserve celebrated its 75th birthday. Its diamond anniversary is an occasion to reflect on the Air Force Reserve's proud heritage, recognize its history, and acknowledge its current contributions to national security as we look to the future.

The legacy of the Air Force Reserve dates to the National Defense Act of 1916, when the need for a standby force led to the creation of

the Federal Reserve. The Air Force Reserve was officially established on April 14, 1948, when President Truman transferred the Army Air Corps Reserve to the Air Force. Barely two years later, the Air Force Reserve would mobilize for the first time, activating nearly 147,000 Citizen Airmen during the Korean War. Since that date, the Air Force Reserve has provided essential capabilities and manpower in every major U.S. conflict and numerous smaller operations around the globe. Every day, Reserve Citizen Airmen are actively engaged in every Air Force mission set and are serving bravely and proudly to defend and protect American interests worldwide.

Today, the Air Force flies in one formation. There is no distinction between active, guard, and reserve airmen. Our nation relies on the Air Force Reserve to provide strategic depth through surge capacity both at home and abroad. The Air Force Reserve has always been and will continue to be a ready now force that provides combat forces to fly, fight, and win.

I am honored to have the privilege of representing the Air Force Reserve Command Headquarters, located at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and the people of Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, I thank the Citizen Airmen of the Air Force Reserve and wish the Air Force Reserve a very happy 75th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to a medical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on roll-call No. 183 (H.R. 1151), and yea on roll-call No. 184 (H. Res. 240).

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELBIT SYSTEMS OF AMERICA

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of one of Fort Worth's very own, Elbit Systems of America.

For 30 years, Elbit Systems of America's technology, products and spirit have served side-by-side with warfighters, first responders, civil aviators, and medical personnel to fulfill the company's core mission: providing innovative solutions that protect and save lives.

With fewer than 10 employees, the company was incorporated in the State of Delaware in 1992. But in 1993, the company started operating in Fort Worth after purchasing a manufacturing plant from another defense contractor. Operations in Fort Worth began with one contract to service the F-16 fighter aircraft with 170 employees, and with a commitment to helping its customers keep America safe.

Today, Elbit Systems of America has grown to nearly 3,500 employees; annual revenues

of almost \$1.5 billion; and engineering and manufacturing facilities in seven states.

It is no exaggeration to say that a huge contributor to the success of this business is its President & CEO, Raanan Horowitz. Raanan was one of the company's first employees, and since 2007 has led the company through America's times at war, economic challenges, and the uncertainty of the pandemic.

While nearly doubling the company's revenue under this tenure, he's ensured that Elbit Systems of America operates by the highest standards. In fact, the Ethisphere Institute has honored Elbit Systems of America with its World's Most Ethical Company award five times since 2014, and back-to-back in 2022 and 2023.

Elbit Systems of America's products are found in practically every major weapon system, they produce surveillance systems to help secure America's southern border, and blood diagnostic machines to help protect us from illnesses and diseases.

I'm proud to say that despite all its growth and success, Fort Worth, Texas remains Elbit Systems of America's home and headquarters, where it is actively engaged as a valued member of our community. The company is a national sponsor for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, raising awareness and funds for groundbreaking cancer research. Employees across the company also volunteer their personal time to support local food banks, family shelters, children's programs, and animal rescue.

Earlier this year Elbit Systems of America was named one of the Best Companies to Work for in the Great State of Texas, and I am proud to count them a member of Texas' 12th Congressional District.

I congratulate Elbit Systems of America for 30 years of operations, thank them for being such good neighbors and supporters of America's warfighters, law enforcement, and medical professionals, and wish them good luck during their future efforts in the decades to come.

RECOGNIZING DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join numerous organizations and individuals from around the country in observation of Distracted Driving Awareness Month. First introduced as a resolution by the Honorable Betsy Markey and passed by this chamber in March 2010, this commemoration brings critical attention to the devastating and persistent problem of distracted driving on our Nation's roadways.

The latest data show that more than 3,000 people a year, an average of nearly 9 each day, are killed in distracted driving crashes. According to the National Safety Council—a leading safety nonprofit organization that is based in my district—only 62 percent of drivers reported to be “very willing” to obey state laws preventing cell phone use. Over the last 10 years, the prevalence of drivers using hand-held electronic devices while driving has increased 127 percent, climbing from 1.5 percent in 2012 to 3.4 percent in 2021. It is alarmingly clear that too many drivers fail to understand the dangers of distracted driving.

Preliminary 2022 estimates from the National Safety Council indicate the deadly consequences of distracted driving are not fading. In 2022, over 46,000 people lost their lives in preventable traffic crashes. These estimates reveal that, compared to pre-pandemic numbers from 2019, the rate of deaths per miles driven in 2022 increased nearly 22 percent. These disturbing statistics are a reminder of how dangerous our roadways can be.

I want to emphasize that these deaths are indeed preventable—and also, that these numbers are widely believed to be undercounted, as many states do not include the option on crash reports to document distracted driving. It is therefore imperative we continue to raise awareness in this chamber and in our communities.

As we mark another Distracted Driving Awareness Month, I strongly encourage all motorists to firmly commit to driving safely and attentively, and to avoid using cell phones and in-vehicle technology that take attention away from the roads ahead.

HONORING GILBERT THOMAS SOWERS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a special man, Mr. Gilbert Thomas Sowers. Mr. Sowers, a resident of Richmond, Kentucky, is a patriotic American who served our country in the United States Army. He celebrated his 90th birthday on December 15, 2022.

Mr. Sowers was the son of William and Lily Durbin Sowers. He volunteered for military service in April of 1952 at the age of 18. He was sent to Pennsylvania for basic training and was later transferred to Germany. Mr. Sowers volunteered to go to Korea with the Second Infantry Division, where he was in charge of gathering intelligence. Following his first tour to Korea, he returned to Kentucky and married his wife, Betty.

Mr. Sowers went to work at the Madison Frozen Food Locker but, after 2 weeks there, he entered the National Guard at the rank of Sergeant First Class. He was sent to Korea for a second time in the late 1950s and to Germany in the 1960s with his family. In 1964, Mr. Sowers and his family moved back to the States, where he became a drill sergeant and then a mess hall sergeant. He is known still today as a great cook. Mr. Sower's next order took him to Vietnam as a Field Kitchen Supervisor. Not only did he cook; Mr. Sowers was involved in combat as well. He earned a Bronze Star for his heroic actions in helping to evacuate wounded soldiers after an enemy mortar attack in June of 1968. Following his tour in Vietnam, he served one more tour in Germany then retired from the service in 1975 after 24 years, 6 months, and 23 days of service to the United States.

Mr. Sowers serves as a Baptist preacher and the Chaplain of the local Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1066 in Richmond. He has also participated in missing man ceremonies. He represents all his fellow veterans with honor and dignity.

Mr. Sowers is a true patriot. He served our country proudly and I am humbled to honor the service of Mr. Gilbert Thomas Sowers before the United States Congress.